

Wright observed that Miller was “one negro we could not make keep quiet and he talked and talked until Ed McKoy’s gun went ‘click click’ and when we told him to shut up, he kept a little quieter.”¹⁸ Miller later wrote “when I think about it all knowing I am not Guilty it all most drives me mad – just to think how my own people could treat me as they have with out a Cause knowingly.” He related that he was “treated not like human but worse than a dog and someday the Lord will punish them that punished me without a Cause.”¹⁹

Another black leader, Carter Peamon, presents an interesting case of banishment. A politically active barber, Peamon escorted white leaders through Brooklyn to encourage black residents to stay in their homes and not cause troubles. Furthermore, Peamon saved the lives of two white men, M. F. H. Gouvernier and Captain

James I. Metts, when they were surrounded by blacks. Peamon was then “sent out of the city” on board the Wilmington, Columbia and Augusta Railroad. It was reported that Peamon tried to jump from the train as it reached the outskirts of town and was shot by men on board the train. Peamon’s jail time was short, and he apparently was put on the train on the tenth, earlier than the other banished men. The *Evening Dispatch* reported that Peamon was put on the Atlantic Coast Line southbound train and that his life was saved by Metts, who protected him from whites who “would have taken summary vengeance” on Peamon for his attempts to “incite the negroes.” Armed men were on the train with Peamon, and, by the time the train reached Hilton Park at the northern edge of town, he was dead, “lying in the woods.” A passenger on the train phoned in the report from Hilton of Peamon’s death. Details of Peamon’s actions on the day are also recorded in a letter from Jack Metts who said that Peamon was the “leader of the crowd in that section.”²⁰

Several white men were also slated for banishment for their roles in the Republican Party: George French, Mayor Silas Wright, Robert Bunting, John Melton, Charles McAllister, and C. H. Gilbert. Some of the white men were also jailed and were “in danger of severe treatment by red shirts.” The *Morning Star* reported that Melton, Bunting, and Gilbert were given protection by the military at the armory because of “grave threats of violence” against them. The paper noted that the “necessity” of sending the 3 men out of the city “is very much regretted by the more

¹⁸ Miller’s treatment and arrest traumatized him as did his exile. Miller wrote a letter to John D. Taylor, clerk of Superior Court, regarding a land transaction in 1902. Miller wrote: “I have been treated not like human but worse than a dog and someday the Lord will punish them that punished me without a Cause. I am Well and doing Well the only thing that worries me is just to think that I were not allowed to come to my Mothers funeral she being 95 years of age and the oldest Citizen on Wrightsville sound just to think of it will last me to my grave if I were guilty of any Crime or was a Criminal it would not worri me in the least but oh my god just to think it is enough to run a sane man insane. Col I hope you will pardon me for the way I write you but when I think about it all knowing I am not Guilty it all most drives me mad— just to think how my own people could treat me as they have with out a Cause knowingly. Oh my god.” Miller died the following year in Norfolk and his remains were brought to Wilmington for burial. T. C. Miller to Col. J. D. Taylor, July 9, 1902, New Hanover County Correspondence, 1824-1906, State Archives, North Carolina Office of Archives and History, Raleigh; “Minutes of the Association of the WLI,” North Carolina Collection; Hayden, *WLI*, 102.

¹⁹ Thomas C. Miller to J. D. Taylor, July 9, 1902, New Hanover County Correspondence, State Archives, North Carolina Office of Archives and History, Raleigh.

²⁰ It is unclear why Peamon was placed on a southbound train when the others were placed on northbound trains. Jack Metts to Elizabeth, November 12, 1898, Hinsdale Papers, Duke University Library, Durham; *Evening Dispatch* (Raleigh), November 11, 1898; *Wilmington Messenger*, November 11, 1898.